

Understanding the Times

Sociology Unit

Christianity (pp. 247-252)

1. What are the three God-ordained divisions of society?
 - Family
 - Church
 - State
2. How does Christian sociology attempt to understand society?
 - It attempts to understand society in light of our free will and the consequences of our choice to turn away from God.
3. How do Christian sociologists view individuals in relation to social institutions?
 - People are more important than social institutions.
4. According to the text, who “makes it clear that no aspect of society lies outside the realm of Christianity?”
 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
5. Many Christian sociologists believe the condition of what two things can describe the condition of an entire society?
 - Marriage
 - Family
6. The church serves in what two societal roles?
 - Proclaiming the truth about sin, repentance, and salvation.
 - Modeling true community by demonstrating the golden rule.
7. According to Christianity, what charges are given to the family, the state, and the church?
 - Families are charged with reproducing, training, and nurturing.
 - The state is charged with carrying out justice (law and order).
 - The church is charged with demonstrating Christian love within itself and society.

Islam (pp. 253-258)

8. What are the three societal divisions for Islam?
 - Family (polygamous)
 - Mosque
 - State (Islamic)
9. What does the Qur’an say about men and women? (summary of section 6.2.3)
 - The human race originated from Adam.
 - Men and women are spiritual equals before God.
 - Men are the protectors of women.
 - The testimony of a woman is worth half that of a man.
10. How many women can a Muslim man marry? What are the conditions?
 - He can up to four women if he both treats and provides for them equally.
11. What can a Muslim man have an unlimited number of?
 - Concubines
12. How can unsubmitive Muslim women be treated?
 - They may be beaten.
13. Describe Muhammad as he relates to question number 10.
 - He had at least 9 wives and he did not treat them equally. (He loved Aisha the most.)
14. What is meant by “Muslim societies tend to be patriarchal?”
 - They tend to be dominated by men.
15. Generally, how is a Muslim woman’s importance determined?
 - It is determined by her ability to produce sons.
16. Describe Islam in relation to religion and government.
 - Islam is both a religion and a government.

Secular Humanism (pp. 259-264)

17. What is the goal of secular humanist sociologists? How is this accomplished?
 - Their goal is the betterment of society through activism.
18. What societal tradition is particularly distrusted by secular humanists?
 - Religion
19. What is the epitome of social slavery?
 - Heterosexual monogamy
20. Why is the family outdated?
 - The family perpetuates the domination of women by men.

21. What is the more humane economic system?
 - Socialism is more humane than capitalism.
22. What part of the state do secular humanists target to establish their agenda?
 - They target the judiciary (courts of law).

Marxism-Leninism (265-270)

23. What is the logical outcome of Marxist social theory?
 - It will lead to an international communist family.
24. What determines how we relate to others?
 - Our economic system determines how we relate to others.
25. What is insignificant in the face of societal forces?
 - The individual is insignificant.
26. How does Marxist sociology view free will? (give a complete answer)
 - It views free will as *initially* non-existent. Individuality and usefulness are determined by society until the time free will is needed. It will be needed to create a socialist society.
27. What will vanish with the arrival of worldwide communism?
 - The need for government will vanish because class divisions and economic competition will have been abolished.
28. What role will education play in creating a society of communism?
 - Education will have the role of indoctrinating youth in the working-class philosophy.
29. What is the value of education?
 - It is seen as a valuable tool for shaping ideology and producing citizens more likely to cooperate with the notion of the ultimate society.
30. Why do premarital sex and adultery lose meaning in Marxist sociology?
 - They lose meaning because in community there is no private property and everyone belongs to everyone else.
31. What happens when the care of children becomes a public affair?
 - Children are alienated from their parents. This allows their worldviews to be formed according to the state's educational goals rather than the outdated religious and traditional family structure of their parents.

Cosmic Humanism (271-273)

32. What are viewed as "useless in helping us achieve full enlightenment?"
 - Marriage
 - Family
33. What would Cosmic Humanists like to see the educational system encourage?
 - They would like to see a *limitless* society encouraged.
34. What hinders evolution to godhood?
 - It is hindered by modern society's traditional view of family, church, and state.
35. When will meaningful change occur in society?
 - It will occur when sufficient meaningful change occurs in individuals.
36. Why do individuals have the power to change society?
 - Because individuals have God within themselves.

Postmodernism (pp. 275-281)

37. What is the relationship between religious views and church?
 - Private religious views are acceptable while the organized church is not.
38. What is considered by many to be the greatest of all evils?
 - Marriage
39. Define *sexual egalitarianism*. (Do not use the box on p. 276)
 - Each person is free to define his/her own sexuality and all sexual preferences are equally valid.
40. What does postmodern education teach?
 - It teaches that all truth is relative.
41. Identify a big difference between Kinsey's day and ours.
 - In Kinsey's day there were two known STDs and both were treatable with penicillin. Today, there are more than 24 and over a dozen have no cure.